1: Rosen E-5 (1901-1902) 1924 SK6 Choroti SK6

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Fig. 16. A man, in front of his hut. Choroti. Gran Chaco. Bolivia. Photo. E. v. R.

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1: Rosen E-5 (1901-1902) 1924 SK6 Choroti SK6

(material for roofing huts), the Indians are apt to build their villages in the proximity of some grove, or forest, of palms (›palmar‹). As a case in instance, the Choroti village at Tatarenda was situated quite close to a palm grove, and not very far from a largish palm forest. It is of importance that algaroba trees should be growing in the neighbourhood, as the fruit of this tree plays a prominent part in the food arrangements of these Indians.

The huts are of a very primitive character, and are built in the following manner; With a digging-stick (fig. 27) of hard, heavy wood, a succession of holes is dug, or jabbed, in the ground, so as to form a circle with a diameter of 2 metres or upwards. In each of these holes is planted an unlopped, bent-grown branch, thick end downwards, so that the tips of the branch point towards the centre of the circle. By this means a cupola-shaped frame is formed (fig. 26). This frame is covered with a thick layer of palm leaves and grass (figs. 16, 25), unless palm leaves are difficult to obtain, when the hut will be covered with grass only, although huts thatched in this way have less rain resistance. But even the most carefully built Choroti huts are, however, poor enough dwellings which, in any heavy downpour of rain, are unable to keep those inside them from a wetting.

Fig. 18. A man holding a pestle in his hands. Choroti. Gran Chaco. Bolivia. Photo. E. v. R.

The huts have one, or even two, entrances, about one metre in height (figs. 16, 25), but huts of the largest size are sometimes provided with several entrances. A sort of porch, constructed of branches and grass, may occasionally be built out from the entrance. When several huts are close together, they may not unfrequently be connected with each other by means of covered passages, or tunnels, built similarly to the huts.

The latter do not contain many utensils. Ranged along the wall, bowls made of gourd shell, a few clay vessels and a wooden mortar, are generally seen. In prettily knitted net bags of spun caraguatá fibre,[1] the Choroti keep all manner of small articles, such as mussel-shell spoons,

[1] Caraguatá, or chahuar (chaguar), Bromélia serra, is, as I have already pointed out, especially common in the Chaco.

wooden sticks for fire-drilling, toilet articles, magic rattles, etc.

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Fig. 25. Huts. Choroti. Gran Chaco. Bolivia. Photo. E. v. R.

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Fig. 26. Hut frames made of tree branches. Choroti. Gran Chaco. Bolivia. Photo. E. v. R.

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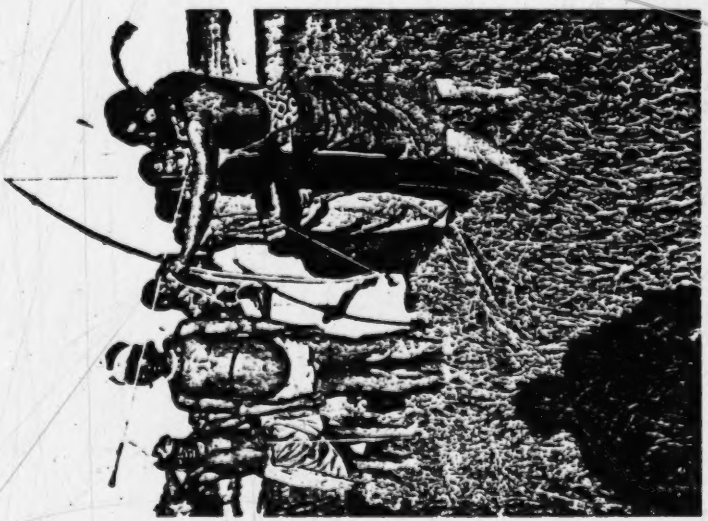

Fig. 96. A man aiming with a bird arrow. Churuti. Gran Chaco. Bolivia.
Photo. E. v. R.

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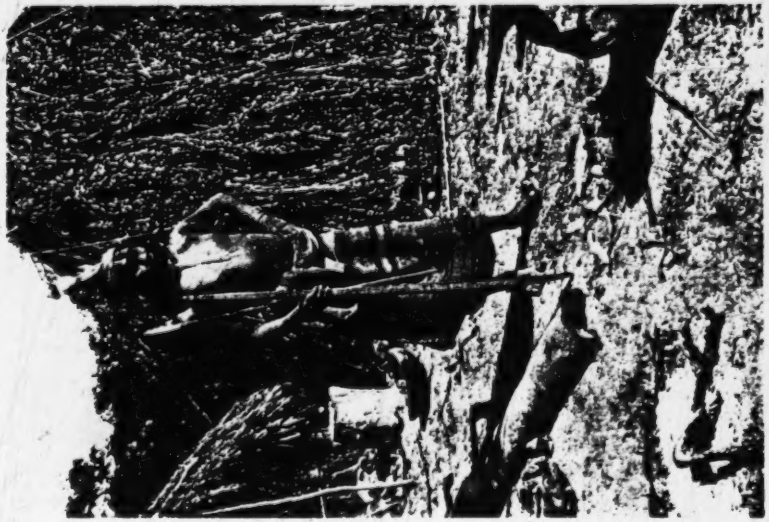

Fig. 95. A man with bow and arrow. Choroti. Gran Chaco. Bolivia.
Photo. E. v. R.

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Fig. 180. Husband and wife, with baby. Choroti. Gran Chaco. Bolivia. Photo. E. v. R.

[888 754 683] supernatural, of some kind or other, plays a leading part when children kill their aged parents.

622 Every village is ruled by a chief or headman. According to the observations of some investigators, these headmen do not nowadays possess any great power or authority, but among the Choroti whom I visited in 1901, the chief's authority was by no means inconsiderable. For example, it only needed my arranging with him that the Indians were to carry out a certain piece of work, and the work would be done. For the work performed by the Indians I paid the chief in goods, which he allotted among them as he himself thought fit, as it appeared. In war, each village [643] contingent is under the leadership of their headman. It was stated by the soldiers of Fort Crevaux that all Choroti used to be under a paramount chief, whose authority over all the other chiefs principally consisted in his being entitled to taking chief command in war. The office of village headman as a rule descends from father to son.

622 554 That certain Choroti chiefs used to be held in greater respect than others was made evident to us at a visit we made to a sugar plantation on our return journey to Salta. A large number of Choroti had just then

2: Nordenskiöld E-5 (1908-1909) 1919
SK6 Choroti SK6
Ashluslay SK5

III.

Dwelling-places.

The Chaco Indians here dealt with, the Choroti and the Ashluslay, live in round or longish, low, brush-wood huts, built of branches planted in the ground and covered with grass or twigs. The entrance is quite narrow and occasionally built out with a passage or porch as a shelter from the wind. This type of hut is well known from many books of travels describing the Chaco.[1] Besides these huts, one can see among these Indians four-cornered cooking-sheds[2], and among the Ashluslay some huts of a similar kind, which are used at carousals and to lodge strangers (men's houses).

The Chaco hut makes a proverty-stricken show, and one is astonished that tribes which can produce among other things, beautifully ornamented textile fabrics and very pretty knitted work, should not have hit upon the idea of building better huts; even when these Indians work for the season in the Argentine sugar factories, they erect these primitive huts.

This type of hut has a very wide-spread distribution in the Chaco. Besides among the tribes mentioned, we find the same among the Mataco, the Tapiete and a few of the Toba Indians. HUNT[3] says characteristically of the huts of the

[1]) See, e. g. v. ROSEN (1) Pl. II, fig. 2, and NORDENSKIÖLD (8 B.), fig. 2 and Pl. 3.

[2]) NORDENSKIÖLD (8B), fig. 6.

[3]) p. 173.

2: Karsten E-5 (1911-1913)1932 SI7 Mataco

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Choroti Indians outside their house.

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The open space in the middle of the Choroti village, with a drum placed to the left.

The woman in the middle has a leather strap tied round the chest as a sort of charm against evil spirits.

2: Karsten E-5 (1911-1913)1932 S17 Mataco .

Choroti

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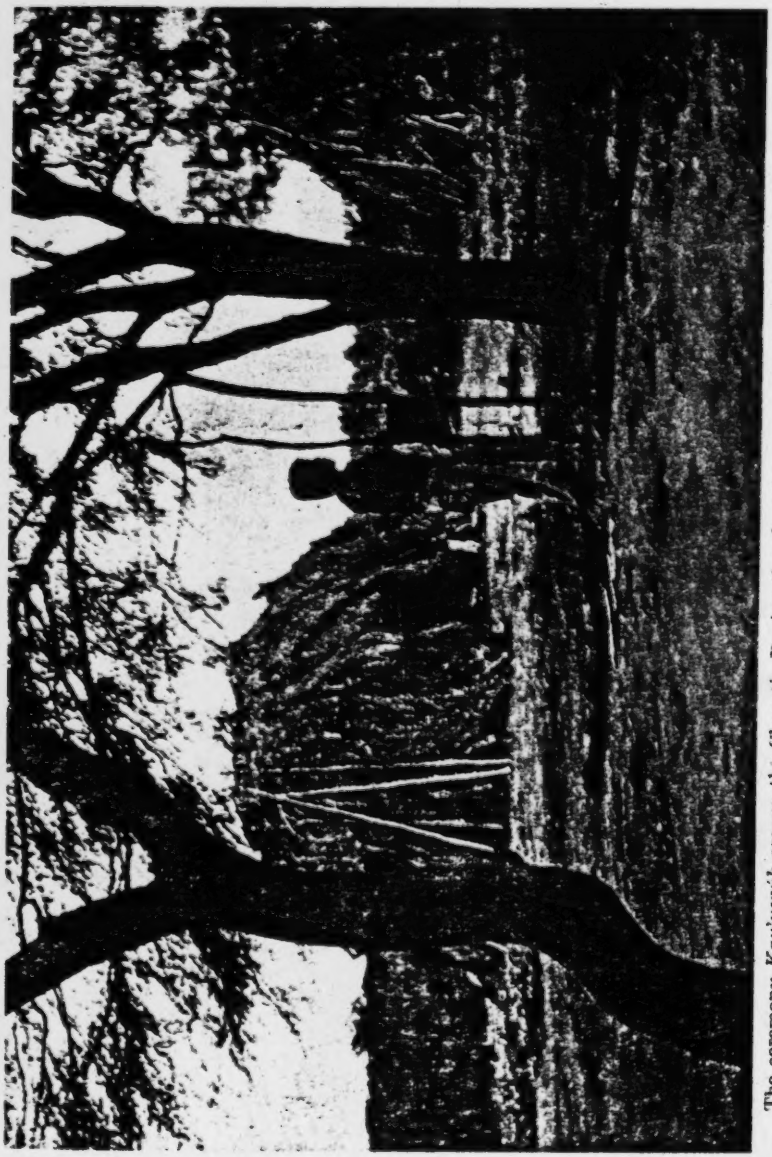

The ceremony *Kau'uqyik* among the Choroti. During the algaroba season the drum is beaten day and night with a view to hurrying on the ripening of the fruits.